

Introduced by Senator Speier

February 23, 2006

An act to add Article 4 (commencing with Section 11773) to Chapter 1 of Division 10.5 of the Health and Safety Code, relating to alcohol and drug programs.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 1500, as introduced, Speier. Drug programs.

Existing law requires the Department of Alcohol and Drug Programs to administer certain programs and studies related to alcohol and drug abuse recovery and to license, certify, and regulate alcoholism or drug abuse recovery or treatment facilities.

This bill would require the department to develop and conduct a statewide campaign designed to deter the abuse of methamphetamine in California, would authorize the department to accept voluntary contributions for purposes of this bill, and would require that the department deposit the contributions into the California Methamphetamine Abuse Prevention Fund, created by this bill, for use by the department upon appropriation by the Legislature. The bill would require that the department shall implement the campaign under this bill only if the Director of Finance determines that sufficient funds, from any source, have been appropriated to support the implementation of the program.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.
State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 SECTION 1. (a) The Legislature finds and declares the
2 following:

1 (1) Methamphetamine is California's primary drug problem,
2 affecting public health and safety, child welfare, and the
3 environment.

4 (2) It is estimated that at least 338,000 Californians age 12 or
5 older use methamphetamine. Patients admitted to publicly funded
6 addiction treatment centers identify methamphetamine as their
7 drug of choice more often than any other substance, including
8 alcohol.

9 (3) Long-term frequent use of methamphetamine leads to
10 addiction, violent behavior, psychosis, memory loss,
11 hallucination, irreversible stroke-producing brain damage,
12 increased blood pressure, and death from overdose.

13 (4) Methamphetamine use has been linked to the transmission
14 of the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), and some studies
15 suggest that methamphetamine abuse may affect HIV disease
16 progression.

17 (5) Methamphetamine abuse is unique in that it affects women
18 and men at nearly equal rates.

19 (6) In at least seven counties in California, methamphetamine
20 use is related to over 60 percent of cases referred to child
21 protective services.

22 (7) Methamphetamine trafficking is related to a growing level
23 of gang violence.

24 (8) Illegal methamphetamine labs in California have more
25 output capacity than laboratories in any other state. Five to seven
26 pounds of toxic waste are produced with every pound of
27 methamphetamine, polluting homes, agricultural land, and urban
28 neighborhoods.

29 (b) It is therefore the intent of the Legislature to enact
30 legislation that would require the Department of Alcohol and
31 Drug Programs to develop and implement a statewide public
32 information campaign designed to prevent the abuse of
33 methamphetamine in California.

34 SEC. 2. Article 4 (commencing with Section 11773) is added
35 to Chapter 1 of Division 10.5 of the Health and Safety Code, to
36 read:

Article 4. Methamphetamine Deterrence Program

11773. The department shall develop and, subject to this article, conduct a statewide prevention campaign designed to deter the abuse of methamphetamine in California. The department shall, in the implementation of the program, use a variety of media to convey its message to the public, including, but not limited to, television, radio, billboards, print media, and the Internet.

11773.1. (a) The department may accept voluntary contributions to pay for the costs in the implementation of the program under this article.

(b) There is hereby created the California Methamphetamine Abuse Prevention Fund. The department shall deposit moneys contributed under this article into the fund, and may use the funds as specified in subdivision (a), upon appropriation by the Legislature.

11773.2. The department shall implement the development and implementation of the program under this article only upon a determination of the Director of Finance that sufficient funds, from any source, have been appropriated to support the implementation of the program.